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Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 10:33 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment

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December 22, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control of the seed supply.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over some 10,000 years should not be allowed to be bought up and appropriated by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

Seeds developed by Monsanto can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics.

We must protect the diversity of plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I urge you to include in your investigation a consideration of the importance of keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, in the public domain and freely accessible.

Sincerely,

Renate Hanauer
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